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| TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i> | | Application Number | 10/731,189 |
| | | Filing Date | December 8, 2003 |
| | | First Named Inventor | Scott J. Smith |
| | | Art Unit | Not yet known |
| | | Examiner Name | Not yet known |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission | | Attorney Docket Number | 020375-001810US |

| ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply) | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) <i>(please identify below):</i> Return Postcard |
| Remarks | | The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 20-1430. |

| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT | |
|--|---|
| Firm or Individual | Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP Darin J. Gibby Reg. No. 38,464 |
| Signature | |
| Date | 2/26/04 |

| CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING | | | |
|---|-------------------|------|---------|
| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below. | | | |
| Typed or printed name | Nicole M. Wartell | | |
| Signature | | Date | 2/26/04 |

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 020375-001810US

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On

FEB 26, 2004

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By:

Nicole M. Wartell
Nicole M. Wartell

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Scott J. Smith
Jeffery G. Nowlin
Bruce A. Bennett

Application No.: 10/731,189

Filed: December 8, 2003

For: MAIL HANDLING EQUIPMENT
AND METHODS

Examiner: Not yet known

Art Unit: Not yet known

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 and
§1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The references cited on attached form PTO/SB/08A are being called to the attention of the Examiner. U.S. patents are not enclosed in accordance with the Patent Office waiver issued August 5, 2003 in the Official Gazette, which states as follows:

The Office hereby waives the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98

(a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and for all international applications that have entered the national stage under 35 USC 371

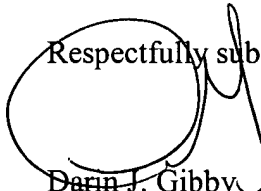
after June 30, 2003. See 37 CFR 1.491(b).

It is respectfully requested that the cited references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

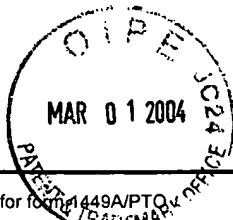
As provided for by 37 CFR 1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and references cited are prior art merely because they are in this statement and no representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all the possible relevant information.

Applicant believes that no fee is required for submission of this statement. However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 20-1430. Please deduct any additional fees from, or credit any overpayment to, the above-noted Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Darin J. Gibby
Reg. No. 38,464

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60149572 v1



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| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary) | | Complete if Known | | | |
| | | Application Number | 10/731,189 | | |
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| | | First Named Inventor | Smith, Scott J. | | |
| | | Art Unit | Not yet known | | |
| Examiner Name | Not yet known | | | | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 020375-001810US |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS+ | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Number Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| | A1 | US-6,202,005 B1 | 03-13-2001 | Mahaffey | |
| | A2 | US-6,349,242 B2 | 02-19-2002 | Mahaffey | |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ³ | Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | B1 | | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | B2 | | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Kind Codes of U.S. Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.
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